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AND FAMILY

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WILLIAM A. HART

AND FAMILY

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS HART, than whom there were few better known men in Middlesex county, was one of the sterling residents of Durham, and was widely known and highly esteemed for his upright life and Puritan principles.

Mr. Hart came from one of the old and honorable families of New England, and one of the oldest in Connecticut, he being a representative of the sixth generation from Deacon Stephen Hart, who was the progenitor of the family in America. His line is from Deacon Stephen through Thomas, Hawkins, Samuel and Samuel (2).

(I) Deacon Stephen Hart, born about 1605, at Braintree, County of Essex, England, came thence to the Massachusetts Bay Colony about 1632, accompanied by his wife and daughters Sarah and Mary, and his sons John and Stephen (2). He is supposed to belong

to the company that settled Braintree, Mass. He located for a time at Newtown (now Cambridge), where his first wife died. For his second wife he married Margaret Smith, widow of Arthur Smith. Mr. Hart was one of the fifty-four settlers at Cambridge, Mass., later went to Hartford with the company of Rev. Thomas Hooker, in 1635, and was one of the original proprietors there in 1639. At Cambridge he had been a member of Mr. Hooker's church, and continued a member in Hartford. In 1672 he became one of the eighty-four proprietors of Farmington, Conn. In 1647 he was a deputy to the General Court of Connecticut, and continued to serve as such during most of the succeeding years up to 1660, from the town of Farmington. At the latter place he was one of the seven pillars of the church, and was chosen the first deacon. An extensive farmer, he became a man of influence, and was one of the leaders in the town. His death occurred in 1683, his widow dying in 1693.

(II) Thomas Hart, son of Deacon Stephen, was born in 1644, and married Ruth Hawkins, who was born in 1649, in Windsor, Conn., a daughter of Anthony Hawkins, a man of distinction in Farmington, whose wife was the daughter of Gov. Welles, of Connecticut. Mr. Hart served as ensign, lieutenant and captain,

respectively, of the train band. Mr. Hart and John Hooker were the two most prominent men of the town, and conspicuous in the Colony, being men of wealth, activity and usefulness. From 1690 to 1711, for twenty-nine sessions, he represented the town in the General Court, and he was several times clerk and speaker. Capt. Hart died in 1726, and was buried with military honors. He was a man of wealth and influence. His family consisted of two daughters and five sons.

(III) Hawkins Hart, son of Capt. Thomas, was born in 1677, in Farmington, and was a farmer. In 1701 he married Sarah Roys, who was born in 1683, daughter of Nathaniel Roys and Sarah (Lathrop), of Wallingford. They lived for a time in Farmington, and then removed to Wallingford, where Mrs. Hart died in 1733. Mr. Hart then married Mary Eliot, daughter of Rev. Joseph Eliot and his second wife, Mary (Willys), of Guilford, the latter a daughter of Hon. Samuel Willys, of Hartford. Mr. Hart held the rank of lieutenant, and represented Wallingford in the General Court nine sessions, between 1714 and 1732. He died in 1735. He was a large landholder, and owned and occupied a twenty-seven-acre tract on North Main Street, Wallingford, now known as the Rice (or Roys) homestead. He was a representative man of his time, promi-

nent in State, civil and military affairs. Mrs. Mary (Eliot) Hart was a granddaughter of Rev. John Eliot, the "Apostle to the Indians," who read the Bible to the Redmen under the massive oak at South Natick in 1651; he used his own translation of Holy Writ, and was the first to give the Indians this sacred work in their own language. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Hart married Abraham Pierson, who died some time afterward, and his widow married (third) Samuel Hooker, of Kensington, a grandson of Rev. Thomas Hooker, of Farmington. One child was born to Lieut. Hawkins and Mary Hart, Samuel, mentioned below.

(IV) Samuel Hart, son of Lieut. Hawkins, was born in Wallingford July 18, 1735. In 1759 he married, at Durham, Conn., Abridget Fowler, and settled on a tract of land which had been given to Rev. Joseph Eliot by the Colonial Legislature, for valued and distinguished service. Both he and his wife were taken into full church communion in 1771. Mr. Hart held the rank of lieutenant in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war, and was wounded at the battle of Saratoga, September 19, 1777, after which he drew a pension. His death took place January 12, 1805, and his widow passed away November 26, 1827. Their graves are well preserved

in the old cemetery of his native town, his bearing the bronze marker of the Sons of the American Revolution.

(V) Samuel Hart (2), son of Lieut. Samuel, was born July 12, 1770, and was baptized in Durham, Conn. On March 3, 1803, he married Patience Hubbard, who was born in August, 1772, a daughter of Eber and Patience (Chittenden) Hubbard. Mr. Hart was a farmer, living on his father's homestead, and was an industrious man. He died December 25, 1857, his widow surviving until March 15, 1864.

The children of Samuel and Patience Hubbard Hart were: William Augustus, born April 26, 1806; Edward and Edmund (twins), born January 14, 1808; George, born April 18, 1810; Amos and Mary (twins) born January 1, 1813; Samuel, Jr., born April 15, 1815. The aged grandmother was permitted to see growing up around her these seven grandchildren, influencing their young lives by her exemplary life and character. She was an earnest Christian woman, devotedly reading her Bible and walking humbly with God.

The mother was no less watchful, and devoted ever to the religious training of her young charges. One beautiful Sunday in September, 1814, this Christian mother, accompanied by the grandmother, with her

six little children, all on horseback, crossed Totoket mountain, six miles by a rough mountain path, to the home church of her childhood in North Guilford, where she consecrated these young hearts and lives to the service of the Master, all being baptized Sunday, September 11, 1814, by Rev. David Baldwin, rector of the Episcopal Church, as follows: William Augustus, Edward, Edmund, George, Amos Fowler, Mary. The privilege which this act of having her children dedicated to the Lord in her own church, in which they were prominent, with her own family around her, and by her own pastor, was a covenant which cheered her heart and inspired her life. Another source of joy to her in after life was the fact that this consecration was almost the last act of worship in this ancient church, as the new building was dedicated the first Sunday in November following, and named St. John's; it is the present place of worship today in North Guilford. It was Mrs. Hart's custom to occasionally attend Sunday services in this church, taking one or two of the children on horseback, going without her husband, as he did not like the Episcopal form of worship. Later in life, when he joined the Congregational Church in Durham, she came with him, as she could worship with him anywhere. She was a good, consistent Christian woman.

In the cemetery at Durham Center, overlooked by the old church site, where they and their ancestors had worshiped for a century, on a sunny hill from which the mountain tops of Totoket and Paug, silent sentinels of the old home, are plainly visible, are two grass-covered graves, marked by white slabs, the sacred resting-places of Grandfather and Grandmother Hart, on which we find this record:

Samuel Hart
Died
Dec. 25" 1857 Aged 87 years.

Patience, his wife
Died March 14" 1864,
Aged 91 yrs. 5 mos.

And standing beside these graves, we seem to hear her say:

And when, remembering me, you come some day
And stand there, speak no praise, but only say,
How she loved us! 'Twas that which made her dear!
Those are the words that I shall joy to hear.

From the old to the new, from the spirit of the eighteenth century to the opening activities of the nineteenth, one year, three months and fourteen days after the passing of Samuel Hart, Sr., the Puritan, the pioneer, the soldier, was born his first grandson, William Augustus Hart, April 26, 1806. Twenty-five years of peace had made many changes in

church and State. Advancement in means of education, progress in transportation, increase of commercial facilities, marked the commencement of the nineteenth century, which have made it the most eventful and progressive in the history of the world.

A glimpse of the conditions of society and the prominent public men in Durham at that time will mark the influences which shaped Mr. Hart's young life, and were potential in the formation of his character. At the time of his birth Rev. David Smith, D. D., was pastor of the Church of Christ (of which his parents were members), having been ordained August 15, 1799; there was a membership of 201 persons. Until May, 1804, Durham had been an ecclesiastical parish; settling ministers was done in town meetings, and all were taxed for their support. Power having been given by the Legislature to form ecclesiastical societies, the first was formed at a meeting held November 19, 1804, the society's committee consisting of: Gen. James Wadsworth, Daniel Parmalee, Esq., Capt. John Johnson; Simeon Parsons, clerk; John Johnson, Daniel Parmalee, Abner Newton, Ozias Norton, John Tibbals, deacons. Rev. David Smith, D. D., was clerk of the Durham Library Company. The representatives in the May session of 1806 were Joseph Parsons and Daniel Parmalee; Octo-

ber, Daniel Parmalee and Daniel Bates. Since September 16, 1777, 270 had taken the freeman's oath. Simeon Parsons was town clerk, Simeon Parsons, Daniel Parmalee and Charles Coe were justices of the peace. The representatives in the Legislature in 1812 opposed the war. Durham was represented in the May session by Worthington G. Chauncey and Isaac Newton, and by Abner Newton and John Butler in October. In the adoption of the State Constitution, in 1818, the vote was eighty-two yeas, seventy-four nays.

In the war with Mexico the State Legislature of 1847 opposed and censured the Federal government. It is stated the representatives from Durham were divided, one yea, one nay. They were Clement M. Parsons and Wolcott R. Stone.

In the Civil war of 1861-65 Durham sustained the Federal government, furnishing $12,890 and eighty-five men, represented in seventeen regiments; among them were three sons of William Augustus Hart. During the war the following men served the town as representatives: 1861, Horatio N. Fowler, Joel Austin; 1862, B. B. Beecher, David C. Camp; 1863, Edward R. Camp, William C. Ives; 1864, Roger W. Newton, William H. Canfield. In the Senate were: 1862, Leverett M. Leach; 1864, William C. Fowler.

The first postmaster at Durham was David Camp, appointed July 1st, 1800. A post office had been established in New Haven since April, 1755, and it is quite clear that there was no regular mail service between these dates. The first regular service of which we have record, from New Haven by Durham, Middletown, Upper Houses and Wethersfield to Hartford, tri-weekly, was let from October 11, 1811, to December 31, 1814. The old road—the route traveled as the present turnpike—was not surveyed until 1809-1812, was incorporated in 1813, and not fully completed until 1820. Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster-General from 1753 until 1774, when he was ejected because of his opposition to oppressive measures of the British Ministry. Again appointed by the Continental Congress in 1776, he resigned on his appointment as ambassador to France. In 1761 he established a weekly post between New York and Boston, leaving these places on Thursdays, meeting in Hartford on Saturdays, returning to the place of starting on Wednesdays.

On August 30, 1776, the following enactment passed the Continental Congress:

"*Resolved,* that the communication of intelligence with frequency and dispatch from one part to another of this extensive continent is essentially requisite to its safety; that there-

fore there be employed on the several post roads a rider for every twenty-five or thirty miles, whose business it shall be to proceed through his stage three times in every week, setting out immediately on receipt of the mail, and traveling with the same by night and by day without stopping until he shall have delivered it to the next rider."

The Colonial records furnish information of regular means of communication by the lay-out of roads between Hartford and New Haven as early as 1717, towns being ordered from time to time to lay out, repair and make them fit for travel. The present old road, so-called, running past the house of Samuel Hart, Sr., was opened previous to its occupancy in 1759. In the diary of President Manning he refers to a trip from New Haven to Durham September 29, 1779, from Paug, Northford, "excellent land and husbandry and buildings uncommonly elegant." This was over the before-mentioned road. In 1767 selectmen in various towns were ordered to set up milestones on all the post roads, showing the distance from country towns.

In those days traveling from New York to Boston was by a clumsy stage, making about fifty miles a day, so that by rising at three or four o'clock in the morning, and traveling well into the night, one was able to reach Bos-

ton in six days. The mails were carried by postriders, and most of the travel was on horseback. The new era in transportation agencies, turnpikes, commenced in 1797, following as a rule the old highways. Tollgates were established and rates of toll fixed. The exemption clause ran as follows:

"Persons traveling to attend public worship, funerals, society, town or freemen's meetings, and persons obliged to do military duty and traveling to attend trainings; persons going to and from gristmills; and persons living within one mile of said gates, and not passing said gates more than one mile to attend their ordinary farming business, shall not be liable to the payment of said toll."

The Hartford, New Haven, Durham & Middletown turnpike was incorporated in 1813, and completed in 1814. Edward Everett gives an account of a stage ride from Boston to New York in two days, with a stop of one hour at Hartford, in October, 1814.

Durham was strict to enforce the laws, holding office being considered a duty. A man elected to office paid a fine unless he performed services, and no emolument was attached to town offices. Sunday was strictly observed, and travelers on the Sabbath were stopped and sometimes fined. The whipping post was used for the punishment of petty

crimes. Durham, being rather isolated, assumed a character somewhat of its own, where existed order, civility and the essence of good breeding, and under the influence of the three distinguished clergymen of the time, Chauncey, Goodrich and Smith, its character for religion and education had been formed.

Into this condition of society young Hart was born, and its conditions served to influence and mould his career. His early taste and ambition was to secure an education. He had but few books, and the advantages of public school but two months in the year, a four-months district school alternating two months each in the Southwest and West school districts. Bent on the improvement of his opportunities, and reaching out to benefit his fellowman, we find recorded in his diary, June 29, 1826, "The Writer's Wish:"

"May I be enabled while writing this book to have my mind steadily fixed upon liberty, virtue and religion, and, if it should ever come before the public, may it be read with attention; and with the blessing of the God of peace be the means of doing some good in the world."

Thus handicapped, and being obliged to earn as much as possible toward the support of his father's large family, he faithfully and zealously engaged in the wage struggle, seek-

ing employment among the farmers who needed service, and at the age of twenty we find him preparing a Fourth of July oration, as he weeded onions in the fields of Jonathan Fowler, in White Hollow, Northford, then part of Guilford. This oration, which marked his first public debut, was delivered in Northford July 4, 1826.

Being interested in education and young people Mr. Hart prepared himself, as best he could, to teach school. His first school was in Higganum, in the Candlewood Hill District, where he taught five months at fifteen dollars per month, and boarded around. We have this statement from a man who attended his school, and who is now eighty-six years old: "I, Jesse Spencer, of Higganum, remember going to school to Mr. Hart in 1826. The school house was fifty or sixty years old and unfit then. It has since been sold at auction, removed, and not a vestige of it remains. I was ten years old. Everyone liked him. He was very popular with every family in the district. There were about fifty scholars in the school. He was a good teacher, and a good man, opened school with prayer, an exception by teachers while I attended school. I think I am the only person living who attended his school, and my recollections of that school term are among the most pleasant

memories of the past. At the close of the term he delivered a public address to the parents and scholars."

The winter of 1827-28 Mr. Hart taught school in North Madison, where Joseph Jones was school committeeman. While teaching this school he formed the acquaintance of Mr. Jones' daughter, whom he afterward married. It is narrated that during this term of school the gossip of the district turned upon the frequent calls of the schoolmaster on the committeeman, and wished he would be more prompt in his payments, that he might not have to call so frequently for his wages. The most fruitful result of that school term, bearing upon the future, was his marriage, June 23, 1828, to Sally Maria Jones, of North Madison, daughter of Joseph Jones and Lucy Austin.

The old road by the Hart home was abandoned as a thoroughfare on the completion of the new turnpike, about 1820. Its opening through the Hart farm made eligible a beautiful building site, which William A. received as a gift from his father; it was a part of the Colonial grant to Joseph Eliot, and of the undivided estate left by Samuel Hart, Sr., to his three sons, Daniel, Samuel, Jr., and John Hart, on which Mr. Hart built the future home of his large family, in whose possession it still

remains. This deed was recorded in the town clerk's office in Durham, by Worthington G. Chauncey, town clerk, May 7, 1827, and is the only transfer by deed from the original land grant made to Joseph Eliot by the Colonial Legislature in 1668, a period of 159 years. On this beautiful site his first act was to plant the majestic row of maples which are today the pride and joy of a century past, beneath whose shades the childhood days of many happy lives are woven into the bright memories which cluster around the old home of today. There he built the red house still standing, and established the new home, bringing his young bride of twenty summers in the month of "June, the month of roses," to this charming valley, when nature in her fullness had decked it in her carpet of green and decorated it in glowing colors, with the daisy, clover, buttercup and lily covering the hills and wooded slopes, bright with foliage and dark with evergreens.

Flowery June,
When brooks send up a cheerful tune,
And groves a joyous sound.

Mr. Hart was married June 23, 1828, to Sally Maria Jones, of North Madison, eldest daughter of Joseph Jones and his wife, Lucy Austin, in the rural home where he formed her acquaintance when teaching the district

school. He and his young bride came to the home of his father, where they resided until 1832. We append a poem written by himself, and dedicated to his young wife on their wedding day.

AN ACROSTIC.

Sweet charmer of my youthful days,
Amiable, and lovely, in all thy ways,
Like the fair rose's blooming grace,
Love sits smiling in this face,
Young, lovely, innocent, and gay,
More beautiful than the flowers of May,
A bright and lovely gem.
Radiant as fair virtue's diadem,
Inspired with Christian love,
Aspiring to the joys of worlds above,
Hope sits smiling in this face,
A heart adorned with innocence and grace,
Rising as a blessing to thy friend
Till death shall our union rend.

His house complete, starting life without means, but with a strong mind, good physique, and in the strength of his young manhood; imbued with the Puritan principles of the elder Stephen, whose memory he loved, and the patriotic devotion of his grandfather, Samuel; taught at his mother's knee to love God and his neighbor as himself, and the motto of her life, to so live as to never fear the face of man, he was well equipped for a life of usefulness, and thus laid the foundation of a Christian home. Teaching these guiding prin-

ciples of his life, by his own example of honest industry, zealous action and Christian living, his influence was felt in the community, in the church, school and home. There his family of nine children were born, and educated in the common schools, all reaching maturity and passing out into the active spheres of life. There father and mother spent their lives in happiness, serving beyond the allotted time of threescore and ten years, and their last looks on Nature were out on this beautiful valley of their love's young dream.

At this period (1830) the population of the State was 297,711, of Durham 1,116, of New Haven 10,180, and of Middletown 6,892. No railroads spanning the country, the farms furnished subsistence for the populous centers. As the eldest son in his home life, it had been Mr. Hart's duty to market the farm products and purchase the family supplies. Having an established reputation, he commenced the purchase of farm products, butter, eggs, chickens, etc., also calves, lambs, and beef cattle, which he slaughtered, making regular trips weekly to the before-mentioned cities and with the growing demand for exchange in these products, for groceries and manufactured goods, he established a country store which he carried on in addition to the home place. He followed those lines of traffic during his business life

without financial success, because he trusted his fellowman to always act upon the principle of the Golden Rule—his own business maxim.

Not realizing his own early ambitions for an education, Mr. Hart directed his efforts toward securing the best school advantages for his own district and town. He often filled the various positions connected therewith, always striving to raise the standard by procuring the most efficient teachers, introducing improved methods of interesting the children, and lengthening the school terms. He taught school a number of winters after he married. We have a record of his teaching in the Beach Corner District, Branford, in 1832, also in the West District, North Haven, and after that one or two terms in the Union School District, Southwest side of Durham. In this connection it is interesting to review the school history of the district, and his connection therewith.

In 1737 a school was established on the west side of Coginchaug swamp. We find among town records payment to Caleb Fowler in 1766, for keeping west side school, £5, 5s., 8d. The first record of the dividing of the town into school districts was approved by a meeting of the School Society, December 18, 1820. There were five districts:

North	No. of children between 4 and 16		67
Quarry	"	"	64
Center	"	"	62
South	"	"	61
West Side	"	"	70

Wedworth Wadsworth, John Swatterell, Jesse Atwell, Richard Robinson, Timothy Elliott, committee to designate lines for the districts. At a meeting held October 28, 1822, it was voted: "That the South West School District be divided into two School Districts by a line beginning at the East River on the causeway and running Westerly to a point 20 rods South of the house where Frank Stanton now lives, thence a direct course to the North end of Pistapaug Pond."

Report of Committee: "We the Subscribers being appointed a Committee by the School Society of Durham to designate a place for the Middle West Side District to erect a school house and decide upon a spot it should be built

"Therefore we agreeable to notice met and examined the particular places of said District and have taken into view the situation of said District and being of the opinion that a union with the South West side School District would prove beneficial to both Districts and considering that such a union was contemplated at the time the division was made and is still anticipated by a major part of both Districts

taking this with other considerations into view we are of the opinion that the place where the old School House stood and has this day been removed from is the proper place for the new house to be built. We would therefore direct the new house to be built on or near where the old one stood.

"Dated at Durham on the 8th day of April, A. D. 1823. Daniel Bates, Luther Hall, William Lyman, Committee."

A school house had been built on the lot between Timothy Elliott and Elah Camp, and four months of school maintained for many years, jointly with the West District, two months in each district prior to the action of the School Society on December 18, 1820.

In this school house, thus located, the Hart boys of two generations received their education. To better accommodate the scattered families of the district, it was moved south between the Thomas Cabin and Nathan Camp houses, on the east side of the main road near its junction with Poke Lane, and there, for several years more the join occupation continued. In this school house, thus located, William A. Hart taught several winters; Ransom Prout and Nancy Parmalee, now (1902) living, bear witness, having been pupils of his school. This school house was burned just prior to 1838, taking fire from an ash barrel.

which stood in the entry. David N. Camp says: "I was attending school at the time. The fire alarm was given early in the evening. The neighbors, both men and women, quickly rallied, brought water in buckets, and supposed they had extinguished it, going home about nine o'clock. My mother, Mrs. Elah Camp, went into the school house after the fire and took her children's books home. The men laughed at her, told her the fire was out, and there would be school again in a few days. Another alarm was sounded at two o'clock A. M., and all the books and furniture were burned."

The school house was a frame building, warmed by a fireplace, smoked badly and was very cold and uncomfortable in winter. It was burned probably during the winter of 1837-38. Enos S. Camp kindly opened his doors to the District, and the school was continued in his house until a new building was provided.

After the destruction of the school house by fire, January 29, 1838, the School Society of Durham ordered the division of the West Side District, established in 1820, into two, called the Middle West Side, and the South West Side Districts, by the following described line:

Commencing at the Coginchaug river, on the New Haven turnpike, thence westerly to

a point twenty rods south of the house occupied by Samuel Stevens, thence westerly to a point ten rods south of Timothy Coe's house, thence westerly to a point ten rods south of the house now occupied by Horace Lucas, thence in a due west direction to Wallingford.

At the same meeting Jeremiah B. Bailey was appointed district committee of the Middle West and Lucius Foot of the South West District.

The Connecticut School Fund was created by act of the Legislature in 1795. This fund was the proceeds from the Connecticut land, known as the "Western Reserve," in Ohio, the total amount being $1,200,000, the interest of which was to be appropriated to the support of schools in the State; and until 1820 divided among school societies, determined by their respective lists of polls and ratable estates, the wealthier societies receiving the greater proportion. After this time, under a new act, the basis of distribution was among all the children of the State, between four and sixteen years of age, in their respective school districts, and this just rule has since been followed. The distribution in 1826 was eighty-five cents for each enumerated child, and at the time of the building of the new school house, in 1838, it was $1.20 each. This educational fund, which gave the South West

School District from $50 to $70 per annum, an amount nearly sufficient to defray the expense of a four-months school, created new interest in the common school and education generally.

Mr. Hart had commenced life a teacher, and had led the community in the advanced movements of giving the rising generation a good common-school education, and of not confining itself to the expenditure of the public money, but to maintain a four or five months winter school, and at least three months in the summer, taxing the property for the maintenance of the same. The South West School District, so recently divided and made independent, being without a school building we find him foremost in securing a new one, as appears from the records of the clerk of the school district.

"Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the South West School District, that there will be a school district meeting at the house of Lucius Foot, situated in said district, on mondy the 19th of Feb. 1838 at six o'clock P. M., for the purpose of appointing a Clerk and Treasurer for the above named district, also to take into consideration the necessity of building a school house for said district and of obtaining a location for said school house, also if necessary to lay a tax for the purpose of building said school house, and of purchas-

ing suitable ground on which to erect said school house and furthermore to designate and determine upon a place at which notification for school district meetings shall be set up.

"Lucius Foot, School District Committee."
Durham, Feb. 14, 1838.

The meeting above referred to was held, pursuant to notice, and William Augustus Hart was elected district clerk, and Elah Camp treasurer. It was voted that the maple tree on the road just south of Elah Camp's house be used as a sign-post where warnings shall be put up for school district meetings. Also, to build a school house sixteen by twenty feet for the use of the South West School District; that said house be located at or within twelve rods of Poke Lane, so-called; and that William A. Hart, Lucius Foot and Merrick R. Coe be a committee to secure subscriptions of money and labor and material, and draft a plan for the same, and report to an adjourned meeting, February 22, 1838, at 6 P. M., at the house of W. R. Coe. Adjourned February 19, 1838.

At the adjourned meeting it was voted that Lucius Foot, Elah Camp and Edwin T. Coe be appointed a committee to superintend the building of the school house, and said committee was empowered to take a deed, or lease, of Enos S. Camp, of the land on which to

erect the school house. Adjourned to the 8th of March, at six o'clock P. M., to the house of Augustus Howd. There being no meeting, a call was made for a meeting at the house of Lucius Foot, at seven o'clock P. M., April 13, 1838.

Pursuant to notice a meeting was held at which it was voted that an adjournment be made to five o'clock A. M., April 14th, (next morning), at the west end of Poke Lane, for the purpose of locating the school house. At this meeting it was voted to pay Enos S. Camp seven dollars for a site on which to locate the school house, said location being on the north side of Poke Lane, on the corner at the intersection of said lane with the turnpike. A disagreement arising about the location of the school house, former action was reconsidered, work was suspended on the building, and at a meeting held September 24, 1838, it was voted to sell the frame at public auction, Nathan S. Camp auctioneer, and that the money be refunded to the contributors pro rata. At the sale it was purchased by William A. Hart for $17.50.

The school house was built during the year, under the name of the Benevolent Company, by subscription, being located on the site purchased from Enos S. Camp, and rented to the school district for one year for one cent,

and repairs. The school district voted at a meeting held January 16, 1839, to hire a sum on the credit of the district to furnish the house suitably for the use of the school. It was heated with an open Franklin stove, furnished with desks on three sides, benches in front, and two low benches with backs on either side, a desk and a chair.

The vote making the maple tree a signpost was rescinded April 2, 1839, and future notices ordered placed on the Benevolent Company school house. This house was used for school purposes until October 1, 1878, when it was sold at auction for $25 to Chester H. Clark, and drawn by thirty-five yoke of oxen to his farm in the West School District, where it still stands, in a good state of preservation, used for a farm building. There were among those who assisted in the moving some who were active in its building, and others to whom it was their Alma Mater. William T. D. Coe took charge of the transfer, assisted by Asa Fowler, Asahel Nettleton, Henry Page, Bela Davis, James Bailey, Luzerne Elliott, Frederick L. Elliott, Samuel W. Loper and Frederick Parmalee. A collation of loaf cake was afterward served by the ladies. Beside the public road from South West Side to Durham Center this building stands today, a pleasant reminder, to the few remaining who therein

were educated, of the efforts of parent, teacher and pupil for the elevating and uplifting of the children and youth of the South West School District, among which none were more zealous in their behalf than William Augustus Hart.

> Still sits the school house by the road,
> A ragged beggar sunning;
> Around it still the sumachs grow
> And blackberry vines are running.
> Within, the Master's desk is seen,
> Deep-scarred by raps official;
> The warping floor, the battered seats,
> The jack-knife-carved initial.

Mr. Hart's interest in the schools of Durham was his life work, as his appended annual report as school visitor, made October, 1868, will attest, as follows:

"Mr. Moderator:

"So little is thought of the school visitor's report that we sometimes think the people if they listen to the reading do it as a matter of favor to the visitors and not as a subject in which they have any interest, under these circumstances we shall be as brief as the importance of the object will allow.

"There has been divided & paid over to the Districts for the use of Schools in the Town the past year Eight Hundred & Eleven Dollars & Fifty one cts. $740 62-100 from the Town

& School fund & from the Town deposit fund $170 89-100. The number of scholars returned is two hundred & forty five making Three Dollars thirty one & a fraction cents to a scholar.

"In regard to the state of the schools we would say of the winter schools that in the Center District we were being much disappointed in the character of the teacher & am sorry to say that the school proved almost a failure in the North District. We had a very well qualified amiable girl as teacher, but as the school had for a year or two been growing unruly she had not force enough to put the large boys through the course of sprouts they deserved and as nothing can be done without order but little benefit was derived from the school. The other schools we found in a fair condition except the South, which although they returned 25 scholars have had no school a part of their scholars have attended the Center School & a part nowhere. Your Committee are of opinion that a school would be as Profitable as a certain other institution near by.

"Of the Summer Schools your Committee are happy to say we find a decided improvement both in studies & discipline although the attendance has been much smaller. Your Committee are of opinion that the Common Schools in this town are not as good as they were sev-

eral years ago and would call your attention to several particulars which need improvement.

"One great fault is irregularity of attendance of 245 scholars enumerated we find the average attendance but 105 less than one half, many that pretend to attend school are so irregular in their attendance that they derive little benefit themselves derange the classes and embarrass the teacher. Whether this is owing to truancy on the part of the scholars, or selfishness or inattention on the parents it is a serious evil and means should be at once taken to correct it. It will be observed that by a law of the last Legislature all over Fifty Dollars of the money is to be divided on the attendance so that those schools which are most punctual will receive the most money.

"Another fault is the frequent changes of teachers if a teacher understands human nature, and all teachers should or they are not fit to teach, it takes them sometime to study the character of their pupils so as to know what motive will best rouse them to action, Longer still to unlearn them the errors of an incompetent teacher who has gone before by this time the term is half expired and but little time is left to bring a system to perfection the term closes then comes a change for some frivolous pretext some dislike or because the teacher

wants a fair compensation for his labours he is dismissed a new one comes and the farce is played over again how much better would it be to employ a good teacher & keep them on year after year. Is not that the way Bankers Merchants & others do business?

"Another evil is parents seem to take so little interest, seldom if ever visiting the schools usually more ready to look after their Horses & Cattle than the education of their children.

"Another evil many of the schools as now constituted are too small to be of interest the best scholars are taken out & sent to the academy a cheap teacher hired to manage the rest, and the result is little interest with either scholars or teacher.

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"Your Committee would recommend that as the Legislature in their wisdom have made the schools free & we think very wisely too for the reason the property is benefited by having an educated community & as the property receives the benefit the property should pay the tax who would pay any more for a farm because it was a long distance from the church or school house, and as the Legislature have passed a law giving the towns the power to consolidate the Districts and as the Towns are now to raise the money your Committee would recommend the Town to take the matter into

their own hands appoint without distinction of party a Committee from different parts of the Town who are most interested and best qualified to perform the office, as far as possible reduce to a graded school system establish schools when and where they are most needed for the accommodation of the greatest number do away with the academy in its place have a high school with a teacher competent to fit scholars for college the counting house or any other business department have the lower departments taught by regular permanent teachers who shall be well qualified for their post. The high school to be accessible to all as soon as they have arrived at a sufficient state of scholarship of which an examination should be necessary. The school to be a part of the common school system & be supported by the public money.

"Many other suggestions might be added but when these are acted upon & the public sufficiently aroused to the importance of our common schools from whence come those fertilizing streams which tend to promote our Liberty & happiness as a free people Then will a more intelligent Committee add further & more important suggestions all of which is

"Respectfully submitted,

"Wm. A. Hart,

"J. W. Sessions."

Mr. Hart long served the town as a school visitor, having a wide acquaintance among the prominent teachers and educators of his time. He was elected a school visitor in 1842, and continued to act in that capacity during most of the years of his active life, serving continuously from 1863 to 1878.

Next to his home the church stood paramount. On January 6, 1833, Mr. Hart and his wife united, on profession of faith, with the Church of Christ in Durham, Rev. Henry Gleason, pastor; Seth Seward, Samuel Newton and Abner Newton, deacons. They worshiped in the old church of their fathers, the corner stone of which was laid in 1735. The sounding board and hour glass, small boys seated on the pulpit stairs, the deacons' seat under the pulpit, facing the congregation, square box pews, one seat with back to the pulpit, were familiar objects to them.

The corner stone for the new church, the third in the history of the town, was laid July 17, 1835, on the site of the present Town Hall. Its size was 60 feet by 40. The address was made by Rev. David Smith, D. D.

The Hart pew was seldom empty on Sunday, and as the family increased the old one-horse wagon was not able to provide room for all, the older boys making the four miles on foot. By vote of the town, December 5,

1718, it was decided that all persons being inhabitants of the town may have "libertie" to build stables for horses on the meeting house green, under direction of the selectmen. Here the Hart family team, under the historic horse shed, found shelter on Sundays for half a century, and thither the men and boys went after the morning service and Sunday-School to eat their lunch, perchance review the teaching of the morning, more often indulging in gossip of the day, the prospects of the season and the politics of the country. At 1:30 P. M. the bell summoned all again to the church, another sermon and service of an hour and a half, and they arrived home about four o'clock, following with an hour's evening prayer-meeting in the school house at 7:30 P. M. Sunday was the most active day of the week, and the Sunday-school and prayer-meetings found Mr. Hart among their most active workers and participants. Later in life the writer has often seen him taking long walks alone, with his lantern, across the mountains and fields to attend prayer-meetings at the house of some invalid church member unable to attend service. As a speaker he was clear, concise, forcible, and his Bible stories and applications of truth were full of interest. In prayer he was earnest, devout and uplifting, full of the power of the Holy Spirit. He

was an ardent supporter of Mr. Gleason, during whose ministry, seven years, 136 united with the church; Mr. Gleason died at his post of duty, beloved by all his people. Until April 28, 1841, there was no settled minister, when Rev. Charles Lewis Mills was installed; he was dismissed in September, 1845. In 1844 Wolcott P. Stone was elected deacon, and in 1846 Gaylord Newton.

This new church edifice was destroyed by fire November 28, 1844, Thanksgiving Day. A service had been held in the church at 11 A. M., as was the custom, and while seated at Thanksgiving dinner in the old home, about 3 P. M., the writer remembers they were notified the church was in ashes. The society voted to rebuild on the old site. Contracts were made for the building of a new church edifice, money was subscribed, timber from the farms in all parts of the town furnished, a day for the raising appointed, the ladies had raising cake prepared, tables to be set under the trees on the green, the sills were laid on the old foundations, and securely pinned, when, the afternoon before the event, a meeting of the Ecclesiastical Society was called and voted that the frame be moved to the north part of the town, as per copy of the existing record, viz.:

Dea. Samuel Newton, Moderator.

Whereas a certain agreement was entered into on the 12th day of inst. Oct., A. D. 1846, by certain individuals, members of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Durham, as a basis of settlement of the difficulties which exist among them and which is as follows:

For the purpose of healing the difficulties at present existing in the Congregational Society in Durham, those North would propose to those South of the bridge, that on receiving the insurance money, and availing themselves of the stone foundation and any other materials and furniture that may remain of the late church, to build a church for the society on the land of Mr. Dennis Camp, commonly called the Bates place, taking the contract of Isaac Hull for the church previously entered into by those south of the bridge, saving them harmless from the same, also the expenses incurred in repairing the foundation;

It is proposed in addition to the above that the North will pay to those now living in Durham south of the bridge the full amount which each and every of them paid for the old church recently burned down on demand, provided the same is called for within one year from date.

Dated at Durham the 12th day of Oct., 1846.

W. P. Stone, Tim D. Camp, Sherman I. Stone, Saml G. Stevens, John Parmelee, Horace Parmelee, Augustus Howd, Alfred Camp, Miles Merwin, Jr., Saml. Newton, Gaylord Newton, Elah Camp, Eli S. Camp, Abram Camp, Merrick R. Coe, Wm. H. Maltby, Dennis Camp, I. P. Camp, Wm. Southmayd, Parsons Coe, Noah Merwin, Saml. Parsons, Horace Howd, Joel Ives, F. T. Elliott, Saml. Hart, Enos S. Camp, Asahel Harvey, Miles Merwin, Daniel Bates, Phs. Parmelee, Isaac Parmalee, W. G. Chauncey.

To Miles Merwin, Jr., and Others:

The undersigned hereby agree to accept of the proposal made by you in regard to building a church on the land of Mr. Dennis Camp, and paying the money that was paid for the church that was consumed by fire, to those now living south of the bridge.

Durham, Oct. 12th, 1840.

Signed: Isaac Parmelee,
W. P. Stone,
Augustus Howd,
Alfred Camp,
W. G. Chauncey.

Now, Therefore, to carry the same into effect, it is Voted: That the treasurer of this Society be directed to pay to those individuals now residing in Durham south of the Mill bridge, so called, from the insurance money, the several sums they respectively paid for building the church recently burned down, and that all votes in relation to locating or building a church meeting-house or house of public worship for the First Ecclesiastical Society of said Durham and any measures consequent thereon passed by this society since the burning of the church in Nov., 1834, be and they are hereby rescinded and annulled; and that all the powers conferred upon any committee or committees by such votes be and the same are hereby revoked, and this society do now locate and build said church meeting-house or house of public worship on the Main Street in sd. Durham, on the land of Mr. Dennis Camp commonly known as the Guernsey Bates place and for the purpose of carrying the same into effect, that Miles Merwin, Jr., Saml. Parsons, Alfred Camp, Parsons Coe, Isaac Parmelee, Saml. Newton and Phs. Parmelee be a building committee to cause sd. building to be erected under the provisions of the agreement alluded to in the preamble to this vote.

Passed: 37 for, 13 against.

Resignation of the office of treasurer by W. G. Chauncey accepted and Dennis Camp appointed treasurer.

Voted: That any vote or votes which may at any time heretofore have been passed bv this society directing the Societies Committee to take measures to recover from Dennis Camp the monies, securities, papers and property of this society and place them in the hands of W. G. Chauncey be and the same are hereby rescinded and annulled.

Voted: To dismiss. W. P. Stone, Clk.

The above mentioned church was dedicated in June, 1847. This act of the First Ecclesiastical Society divided the town, and was considered by one portion of the people, a desecration of the acts of the fathers who, in 1707, by a vote of the town, set apart this site for a place of worship, and, as such, had maintained it for 150 years. It was looked upon by many as so gross a violation of the long established custom of the people, so great an infringement upon the rights of the church members and families in the southern portion of the town, that a movement was soon inaugurated to form another church and society. After the burning of the church, services were held for three years in the upper room of the academy on the green, which room is now used for a public library. The mother church, which had moved from the ancient home-site, refused letters to seventy-two of its members in good

and regular standing, who desired to form a new church and society, in which event the Consociation of the eastern district of New Haven county was petitioned, and the petitioners met May 2, 1847, at which meeting William A. Hart acted as chairman, W. P. Stone as clerk; articles of faith and covenant were adopted, to be further presented to the Consociation by a committee appointed by that organization. It was voted to observe Tuesday, May 4th, as a day of special fasting and prayer, and to hold public service at 10 A. M., seeking the blessing of God on the great enterprise in which they were engaged. At this meeting the report of the committee of the Consociation was received through its chairman, Rev. Burdet Hart, who reported that the petition for letters was not granted, but that the clerk of the church certified to the regular standing of the applicants, and authority was granted to form the South Congregational Church in Durham. Sixty-two brethren and sisters were present, and after religious services were held the church was organized. W. P. Stone was chosen clerk.

On October 10, 1847, the South Congregational Ecclesiastical Society was formed, nineteen members associating themselves together, for united action in supporting the Gospel ministry, as follows: Worthington G. Chaun-

cey, Joseph Tuttle, Enos S. Camp, Augustus Howd, John S. Camp, Isaac Parmelee, William A. Hart, Elias B. Meigs, Abram Camp, Nathan S. Camp, Phineas Meigs, Knowles Stevens, William W. Chittenden, W. P. Stone, Frederick T. Elliott, Joel Ives, John Parmalee, Selden Hall, William Wadsworth.

William A. Hart and Phineas Meigs were appointed a committee to supply the pulpit. On September 14, 1847, a costly silver flagon for the communion service was presented the church by E. Goodrich Smith, Washington, D. C., with the condition that "should the church at any future period remove from the spot where for more than a century our fathers have worshiped, or depart from their faith and doctrines, it shall revert to the donor or heirs." The communion set was made complete by a gift of six silver goblets and two plates and a baptismal basin, by Elizur Goodrich, of Hartford.

On November 6, 1847, a committee consisting of W. P. Stone, William A. Hart and Augustus Howd, the same being the representatives of the church, were authorized to call Rev. James R. Mershon to become the pastor of the church, and he accepted, at a salary of $450 per annum. His pastorate terminated on April 1, 1850, on account of failing health.

The new church building erected on a portion of the ancient site granted for church purposes in 1707, being completed, action was taken on the part of the church and society, December 10, 1847, to dedicate the church and ordain its first pastor, which event took place April 27, 1848. Mr. Hart was the active member of the supply committee from this time, and during his active life attended to its duties, and was well known by the professors of Yale Divinity School, where he sought for pulpit supply among the theologues.

At the annual meeting of the society held September 19, 1855, action was taken for the building of a parsonage, a lot having been given by Rev. David Smith, D. D. The parsonage was completed in 1858, through the efforts of Mr. Hart. On November 26, 1853, William A. Hart was appointed deacon, W. P. Stone having resigned. On February 25, 1854, he was elected a life member of the Bible Society. He was ordained as deacon, April 30, 1854; prayer by Rev. C. A. Goodrich, D. D., of New Haven, with imposition of hands by him and the pastor, Rev. Robert G. Williams. At a meeting of the society held in the academy on the green April 20, 1860, a committee was appointed to try to effect a union of the two societies; Deacon Hart was chairman of same.

During a severe storm, Saturday night, November 3, 1860, the spire of the church was blown down. At a meeting of the society held November 12, 1860, a communication was received from the North Congregational Society, inviting them to worship with them during their pleasure, "as long as may be desirable," which invitation was kindly received.

At a meeting of the society held September 10, 1862, it was voted to appoint a committee, with power to convey, to sell the property of the society, and pay its debts.

On April 15, 1878, Ward W. Bailey was elected deacon.

On May 18, 1878, at a special meeting of the society, action was taken to repair the church and secure a bell. The largest part of the contribution toward the bell was made by Professor Fowler and Miss Patty Rogers, of Middletown, and the enterprise was made successful by the loyal, faithful, loving hearts of an earnest, devoted band of worshipers. Mr. Hart, in his enthusiasm to locate it, personally climbed up the tower, to be assured of its safety, and the expressed anxiety and labor attending this work may be attributed the cause of his sickness and death. That bell yet speaks, like the old bell in the old church tower on the same site, seven decades past. When its clarion tones ring out, sending its sweet notes

echoing over the hills and through the valleys, from Haddam Quarter to Reed's Gap, from Pisgah to Bluffhead, re-echoing over Totoket and Paug, reverberating back from North Mountain along Coginchaug, it speaks, to the valley and river, and the intelligent, progressive, reflecting mind, of a once united and prosperous people, of twelve hundred and ten souls gathering at one common center for religious, social, political, and business purposes, all working under one banner, inscribed Durham, with the motto, Unity! Fellowship! Fidelity! Mr. Hart's last public service was to assist in raising funds to secure this bell for the church he so much loved, and he saw it placed, ready to send forth its sweet ringing tones down through the valley, resounding its beautiful echo from Paug to Totoket, as did the old church bell of his boyhood days. But alas! its first public use was to toll his death knell, its unruffled notes tolling the age of seventy-two as Deacon Hart's remains were laid in the churchyard. His record in connection with the society closes with a meeting in which he acted as moderator, September 18, 1878.

On November 19, 1886, the society voted to accept the offer of $600 for the church building for a town hall; on December 4, 1886, to sell the movable property of the church at public auction, the communion service being given

to a frontier church in the lumber camps of Northern Minnesota; and on December 27, 1890, it was voted to accept an offer of $1,000 for the parsonage. On September 5, 1899, the net proceeds of all the property of the South Congregational Ecclesiastical Society were given, by a vote of the nine surviving members, to a public library for the town of Durham, to be located on a portion of the land given by the town for church purposes in 1707.

Devoted to the organization, building and maintenance of the South Congregational Church, Mr. Hart gave the best efforts of his Christian manhood; by his zealous efforts he inspired hearts to worship and liberality to give, and lived to see the fruits of his labors blessed in the large ingathering into its fold, and the unbroken membership therewith of his own family of nine children.

Born to be ploughed with years, and sown with cares,
And reaped by Death, lord of the human soul.

Living the life of total abstinence, a teetotaler in practice, the growing habit of intemperance early excited Mr. Hart's fears and enlisted his desires and efforts to work reform among his fellow-townsmen. The evolution of the temperance movement in the State, from its initiatory, in 1789, in Litchfield county, organized by 200 farmers who resolved not to

furnish distilled liquors to their farm hands, developing into a stronger, more determined effort to stay the progress of the evil which was devastating the country, found him an earnest advocate and worker. The movement became general in the State, and the first temperance organization in Durham was formed June 30, 1828, with the following pledge:

"We agree that we will abstain from the use of distilled spirits except as a medicine in case of bodily infirmity; that we will not allow the use of them in our families nor provide them for the entertainment of our friends or for persons in our employment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance the use of them in the community."

Mr. Hart was the fifth of twenty-two men of the town to sign this pledge, and, with strong convictions of the necessity for earnest work, spoke publicly and labored individually for the cause. The movement well inaugurated, its growth was gradual and effective until the society, in less than eight years, numbered 377 members. As a result of this movement the First National Temperance Convention, at which twenty-one States were represented, was held in Philadelphia May 24, 1833, in the Hall of Independence. The aggressive action of temperance societies and public men in the good work received a new impetus in the

exodus of the Washingtonian movement, inaugurated in a drinking club of six men in Baltimore, who pledged themselves to abstain from all intoxicating liquors, malt liquors, wine or cider, forming themselves into the Washingtonian Temperance Society. John Hay Willis Hawkins, a confirmed drunkard, was the great advocate of this movement, and became its chief apostle. John B. Gough was saved through its instrumentality, and over 100,000 took the pledge in 1841. The Sons of Temperance, instituted in New York City September 29, 1842, was an offspring of this movement. Abraham Lincoln was a strong advocate of this cause, making many speeches in its favor in Illinois in 1842. In 1852 he joined the Sons of Temperance in Springfield, Illinois.

The children of Sunday-schools all over the land were enrolled in cold-water armies. This army had its organization in Durham, and on July 4, 1842, the members paraded with banner, badge and song, pledged to a life of temperance and total abstinence. In this work Mr. Hart enlisted the children, took by the hand the habitual drunkard, pointed the way to a life of sobriety and usefulness, brought him to realize his condition, placed him upon the firm foundation of the pledge, and brought him to the platform to plead for his fellow in the depths. The writer well re-

members him bringing to the house a drunken man found by the wayside helpless, with his team. The night was dark and stormy. Man and team were protected until sleep had brought consciousness, when he went his way.

Mr. Hart's kindness and persuasion saved many a weak, misguided brother, and the world was truly benefited by this ardent temperance advocate. He was a lifelong, consistent and zealous temperance worker. At sixty he was a teetotaler, and only in his last years did he use an occasional cup of tea or coffee.

Temperate in every place, abroad, at home,
Hence will applause, and hence will profit come;
And health from either—he in time prepares
For sickness, age, and their attendant cares.

Yet hold it more humane, more heavenly first,
By winning words, to conquer willing hearts,
And make persuasion do the work of fear.

Descended from a long line of law makers, and patriots in a time when men of mind and character were active in the governmental affairs of town and country, Mr. Hart took an active part in the political progress of his day. His first vote for President of the United States was cast for John Quincy Adams, in 1828. In the campaign of 1832 he voted for Henry Clay, and was associated with the Whig party of this country. In 1840 he voted

for William Henry Harrison, the Whig candidate, who was elected, this being the first victory for the party. President Harrison died after holding office one month, and John Tyler became President. In the campaign of 1844 he was enthusiastic for the nominees, Clay and Frelinghuysen, the head of the ticket being his ideal in 1832. But his party was met again with defeat, Polk being elected. During this administration the questions of free or slave territory agitated the country and divided the parties of the North. In 1848 the Free-Soil party made a formidable show among the voters of the country, with Martin VanBuren as a candidate for President, thus cradling the child which in maturer years became the Republican party. The Whig party nominated Zachary Taylor for President and Millard Fillmore for Vice-President, and Mr. Hart voted for them. During this administration the Missouri Compromise was virtually abrogated, and stringent laws were made for the return of fugitive slaves. In 1852 Mr. Hart supported the Whig party nominees, Scott and King, who were defeated. In 1856, in the disruption of parties caused by the Kansas-Nebraska trouble, the Whig party was divided, the remaining portion joining the American party. He tarried a few months with the Know-Nothings, so-called, but rallied to the standard of the Republican party,

and cast his vote for John C. Fremont in 1856. Under its banner he fought the battles of the great Civil war under the great leader Abraham Lincoln, gave one son to the struggle on the prairies of Kansas, during its fight for Statehood and freedom, and three sons to the four-years war which followed. To the objects of the freedom of the slave, the protective tariff and specie payments, he gave his influence and his vote. In town affairs his vote was for taxation for schools, and he voted with his party for members of the General Assembly, using his influence for the best men to fill the respective offices in town affairs. Until late in life he was found in caucus and committee, urging intelligent progressive action to his party. He was independent and outspoken in his political views, always voting an open ballot, known and read of all men. He sought not office nor political honors, but voted with his party for those principles which he judged would best subserve the interests of humanity in the exercise of equal and exact justice to all men.

Established in his home, desirous of keeping in touch with the best thought, men, and progress of the times, he became a subscriber to the New Haven *Palladium*, a weekly paper first issued November 7, 1828, edited by Charles Adams, a well-known Whig. Its edi-

torial announcement embodied his views, viz.: "We shall always advocate those measures which seem best calculated to promote the interests of the community. Is he honest—is he capable? Is he faithful to the constitution? are questions vastly more important than party." Its motto appealed to his mind and heart as an exponent of those principles of life which should be taught in the family, school, church and State. Let it be impressed upon your minds, "Let it be instilled into the hearts of your children, that the liberty of the Press is the Palladium of all your rights." In 1830 James F. Babcock became the editor, and for thirty-two years was a power in the State politically. In June, 1856, the *Palladium* took its position squarely for the National Republican party, with John C. Fremont as its standard-bearer for President. Abraham Lincoln in 1860, when visiting New Haven, was the guest of its editor, James F. Babcock. In 1862 it was edited by Cyrus Northrop, of Yale, since president of the University of Minnesota. This paper was a regular weekly household visitor to the Hart family for a lifetime, and under its able management its potent influence as an educator in the family, in public affairs, in civil life, in loyalty and patriotism to State and Nation, marked the future of all its members. The best books,

periodicals and papers within Mr. Hart's limited means were supplied for his children.

The conditions of the commonwealth were such that the strong arm of the law was centered in its militia. Its deeds of heroism and valor history had recorded in the struggle for independence, from Bunker Hill to Yorktown, and such an important support to civil authority called all the young men of the time into this necessary branch of the service. In his early manhood Mr. Hart joined the State militia, joining the Eighth Company of the Sixth Regiment, Second Division, as a private, in 1829; he was elected ensign in 1830, lieutenant in 1831, captain in 1832 and 1833, filling the positions with such credit to himself, and such efficiency in the service, that he was unanimously re-elected, a rare compliment to a person holding such office in those days. In peace, in civil or military life, his heart was full of love for his country.

Sail on, O ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

About 1860 he retired from business, worn in body, but strong in mind, having made an unsuccessful struggle to acquire a competence, and spent his remaining years on his little

homestead, in the enjoyment of its quiet restfulness, of participation in promoting the growth of those institutions he had helped to plant and foster, and in the reunions in the old home of his children, grandchildren and numerous friends. Thanksgiving never passed in those latter years without an assembling of three generations, fifteen to twenty-five gathering in observance of the oldtime festival.

The most memorable event of these family reunions was the celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Hart's Golden Wedding, June 24th, 1878. A large tent was erected on the green lawn beneath the overshadowing maples of the old home, and on this beautiful June day about 150 —family, kin, friends and neighbors—met to congratulate the aged couple, in commemoration of the nuptial ceremony that moonlight night fifty years before, and of their happy prosperous life.

But happy they! the happiest of their kind!
Whom gentle stars unite, and in one fate
Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend!

The event of the occasion was the assembling in the tent, and the exercises, addresses, poems, songs and impromptu remarks, which occupied most of the afternoon. The program, toasts and assignments had been ably and carefully prepared by Mrs. Ellen M. Hall, who had been for a long time a sufferer from

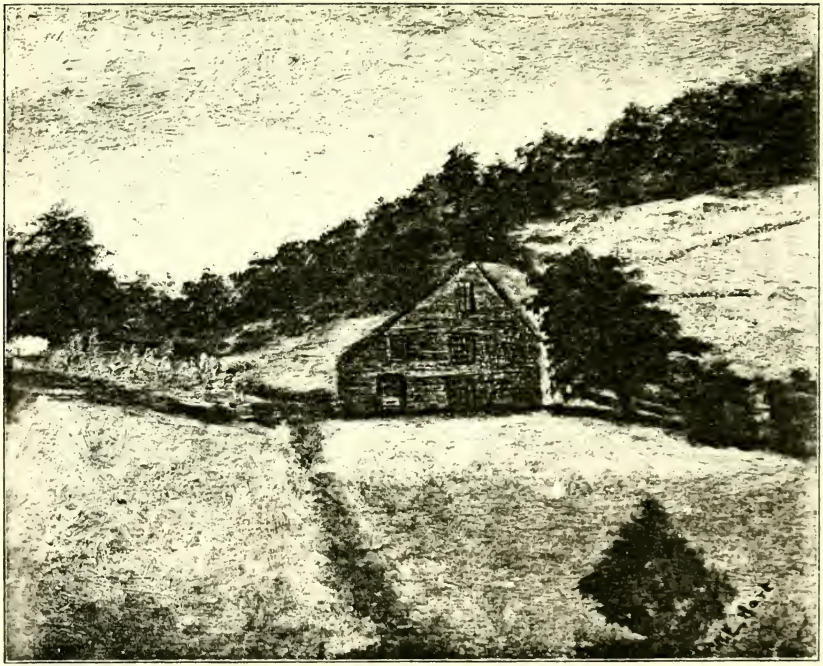
spinal trouble, and was carried on a bed from the New Haven Hospital to attend the exercises of this eventful day. The party being assembled around the sumptuous table, an address of welcome was delivered by the bridegroom. The blessing was invoked by Rev. A. C. Dennison, of Middlefield. Dinner finished, all joined in the old song, "Home, Sweet Home," followed by a poem, "Golden Wedding Greeting," by May E. Hart:

Within this quiet vale to-day we meet,
Kindred with kindred, friend with friend to greet;
To speak our joy, our gratitude express,
For the eventful hour of happiness
Which dawns upon us in this anniversary day,
To bring which fifty years have rolled away.
With deeply thankful hearts we hail its light,
And joyful view the scenes it grants our sight.

Our greeting first is for the aged pair
Whose wedded lives of half a century bear
The ripened fruits of years of toil and love,
Rich benedictions from the Hand above.
The vows they took, the promises they spoke,
Have ne'er by thought or act of theirs been broke.
So strongly bound to each when life begun,
The after years but made the two more one,
Through all the fifty, that have gently borne
Them down life's stream, to this propitious morn.
All honor to their time-besilvered hairs,
And brows o'er furrowed now with many cares;
All reverence to their firm integrity,
And deeply rooted, earnest piety,
Outshining with its fervent, steady light,

Riches of earth and gems of ocean bright;
Preparing for them, on the other shore,
More dazzling robes than ever monarchs wore.
From all our hearts congratulations rise,
That He who overrules our destinies
Has brought us on together until now
To celebrate, anew, their marriage vow;
And every heart will send to Heaven the prayer
That in their coming years of life dull care
May touch them lightly in his onward way,
Until they reach the realms of perfect day.
We ask for them still many years of life,
With freedom from its business, cares and strife;
In pastures green, and by the waters still
Of calm old age, to wait the Master's will;
And when tired nature falls asleep at last,
Without a struggle may the stream be passed.

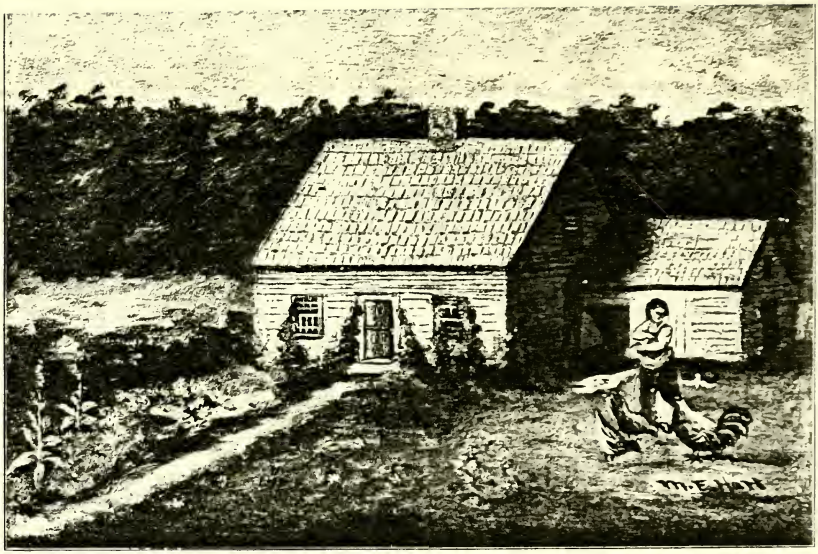
Now look with me across the lapse of time,
And listen, friends, with patience to my rhyme.
While I attempt to bring before your view
Some of the scenes which they have journeyed through.
First we will take a glimpse of yonder hill,
Where stood an old brown house; I see it still.
Though years ago, its frame-work torn away,
Another took its place, is there to-day,
How many of us can the vision see!
Old-fashioned house and leaning cherry tree,
The garden fence both sides, and up the hill
The barn and hay-stack, much as they are still.
Dear ancient house, with thy low leaning roof,
Time wove within thy portals many a woof;
Four generations lived within thy walls,
Each after each, and echoed through thy halls
Their several notes of sorrow and of joy,
Ere time and progress touched thee to destroy.
And thou wert builded on a sacred spot,
A grant of land that should not be forgot;



The voice of gospel power, than sound more strong,
Proclaimed by son of him to whom belong
Honor and praise from all the good and true;
John Elliott! that honor was thy due.
This precious heritage of goodly land,
Passing by change of time from hand to hand,
Was steadily transferred along the line
Of honored ancestry, till walls of thine,
O house of ancient birth, thereon were reared,
And 'neath thy sheltering roof there first appeared
The husband and his bride, an altar here
Of home amid the wilderness to rear.
Here children grew, from hence to battle's strife
The husband went and left his weeping wife;
Brought back again his honor, and his wounds,
And slept no more to wake to mortal sounds.
Another reign of threescore years and ten,
And death, the reaper, at his work again.
This aged husband found his birthplace there,
'Mid all the pride which greets the first-born heir;
'Tis true that other children followed fast,
But yet, I think that nothing can outlast
The first glad joy that fills a parent's breast
When only one has come into the nest.
A taste for knowledge grew with growing time,
But science was a hill full hard to climb;
Yet what he could he gathered by the way,
And so it grew upon him day by day.
With pluck and energy he fought along
And finally attained his manhood, strong
In every principle of truth and right
That goes to make a man a man of might;
The Bible, loved by him from early youth,
His hope and constant guide in ways of truth.
Behold him at the portals of the door
That enters manhood, and with me turn o'er
Another page in memory's wondrous book,
And at another picture take a look.

I went one day in June to get the view
Which I will do my best to give to you.
You cross yon hill and thence through many a dale,
And find yourself within a quiet vale,
Where stands another old brown house, alone.
Its being was, till then, to me unknown.
The faithful wife we greet with smiles to-day
Was with me when I took my lonely way
To view it, nearer than the spot she showed,
Where we could see it, from the rough old road.
Too rough for her, and for the horses, too,
But not too rough for me, and I went through
And came upon the spot, and there, alone,
I stood and gazed, where generations gone,
Whose blood flowed in my veins, had stood before,
'Neath that same roof, in that same open door.
This aged woman, with the silvery hair,
Ope'd her blue baby eyes and first smiled there.
Her grandfather, when all that land was new,
Built there his home, the house I've showed to you,
At one end of which, now, there is an Ell,
Of which I have a little tale to tell;
It had a schoolhouse been in days gone by,
Which gives it place within my history.
I learned this much from one who lived there then;
"'Twas drawn," he said, "from further down the glen."
I saw the corner where he said it stood;
I passed it when I came down through the wood.
I saw the babbling brook that rippled near,
Reflecting beauties in its waters clear;
The over-hanging vines, the bridge, the log,
Pond-lilies that I sought through marsh and bog,
The place had all so many charms for me,
I left it when I must, reluctantly.

The youth we left at manhood's open door
Went out from home, and brought his gathered store
Of knowledge with him, there to take the rule



THE CHILDHOOD HOME OF MRS. WM. A. HART, NORTH MADISON, CONNECTICUT

THE ANNEX WAS ONCE A SCHOOLHOUSE IN WHICH SHE ATTENDED THE DISTRICT SCHOOL, AND IN WHICH MR. HART TAUGHT.

Of boys and girls who formed the district school.
The first schoolhouse in which he ever taught,
That Ell, long time since from the corner brought.
In those days every teacher boarded 'round,
And much enjoyment from the changes found;
Tho' families, in general, were not small,
And one might stay, ofttimes, some weeks for all.
The baby eyes of blue that ope'd to light,
In yon old house, now grown so clear and bright
With eighteen years of healthy country life,
Were earnest getting in the busy strife,
With ways and means to make the two ends meet,
Which moved her parents' hearts, and heads, and feet
To steady toil, as with the years there came
Full many another child their care to claim.
So many younger ones there were to clothe and feed,
Of service she could give there was such need.
She went no more to school, but in the care
Of home and family took ample share.
The schoolmaster was coming there to board!
No doubt she conned anew the knowledge stored
In her few years of school life, wished it might
Have been much more, looked forward to the night
Of his appearance, curious and shy,
Half longing, half afraid, she knew not why.
They met, and I should like if I could tell
Of all the fascination of the spell
Which grew up round them as the time went on,
And found the months of winter quickly gone.
I fancy that it marked an era new
In both their lives, and oft the teacher drew,
On one pretext or other, to the spot
Where glowed a face that could not be forgot.
The days went on, until two years had passed
Since first their paths had met and touched; at last,
At last there came a day, when, full of joy and pride,
He led her from her home, to be his bride.

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O year of eighteen hundred twenty-eight!
To nine of us thy ripening June was freight
With promise of a good outlasting time;
The chance to live and make our lives sublime.
Thus, both their lives apart when life begun,
Henceforth were merged together into one.
They builded here this humble little cot,
Than which to-day the whole round earth holds not
A mansion, howsoever grand it be,
That human hearts regard more tenderly,
Because the sacred name of home it bears,
And thousand fond associations wears.
Here, one by one, their children blessed their eyes,
Nine individual, separate destinies,
In each of which, somewhat anew again,
They lived their own youthtime of joy or pain.
Some from the father claiming most of life,
Some bearing closest kinship to the wife;
Each with some deep-set want its very own,
Some claim to love by all the rest unknown;
The best they could for them they've always done,
Giving a share of good to everyone,
Not of corruptible, which moth and rust
Have power to melt away and turn to dust,
But pure example, elevated thought,
And truths of highest meaning. They have taught
A love of nature, mountains, trees, and brooks,
No less than knowledge to be found in books;
A sacrifice of self, a courage strong,
To fight against the mighty powers of wrong
That all along the bivouac of life
Engage the heart in fierce and deadly strife;
A love for all things high and true and pure,
A heritage unfading, priceless, sure.
A greeting now to each who holds a part,
An heirship, in this long united (Hart) heart.

Elizabeth, the child of hope and pride
First in parental fondness to abide,
We greet you with the love and honor due
The eldest child and sister kind and true;
The memory of a fair and youthful face,
Hair like the raven's wing, o'er lofty brow
Where time has set his certain signet now—
Perhaps you do not know the place you hold
Within our hearts, and need it should be told;
'Tis next the shrine on which our parents stand.
Most true and honored leader of the band.
We thank you for your pure and noble life,
A loving mother and a faithful wife,
Yet sister fond, and daughter all the same,
While recognizing every other claim.
We tender you most loving sympathy,
In recollection of the broken tie,
The only one in all the fifty years
The record of this family history bears;
May comfort from above your spirit stay
Until you meet again in perfect day.
From you I turn to greet the eldest son:

We hail you, Frank, most gladly, every one;
The oldest boy! the father's hope and stay,
When time shall take him in his onward way
In the down-hill of life; and failing strength
Shall make him wish to lean on you at length.
All this is gathered in a father's thought,
As to his arms his first-born son is brought;
All this beams from a mother's loving eye
As to her ear is borne his earliest cry;
All this and more is realized in you,
As, in the prime of manhood, now we view
With untold pride, your kindly face, our Frank,
Whom all of us have so much cause to thank;
So much good cheer to all our lives you've brought,
So constantly the good of each you've sought;

We constitute you counselor and friend,
And ask the best for you that Heaven can send.

I am the next; I cannot greet myself,
And so will lay my name upon the shelf.

Lewis, we hail your face with much delight,
So long time banished from our longing sight.
It brings us back again to childhood's days,
So fraught with memory of prankish ways,
In which you had no little part to play;
Of mischief, fun and frolic, day by day,
Before life's stern realities begun
To dawn o'er childish joys, and love of fun.
At last when early manhood's morning broke
And let its light upon you, you awoke
To purposes which brought a great unrest,
And bade you set your face toward the West.
In vain, with pleading tone and argument,
We strove to hinder you from such intent;
Your purpose fixed, you took your westward way,
And there is your adopted home to-day.
We welcome you more gladly for the years
Your voice was lost in silence to our ears;
And in the time to come we hope to hear
Its music oftener resounding near.

Ellen, dear invalid, with patient face,
Most tenderly we greet you in your place;
We wish your face were fresh as when a child
All nature looked on you, and you on it, and smiled,
When careless, free, with bounding health and joy,
A hatless girl, and coatless, shoeless boy,
Brothers for your companions, one each side,
You roamed the hills, and scoured the meadows wide,
In search of wild flowers, berries, treasures rare.
The mysteries of earth, and sky, and air.
I seem to hear again the merry glee

Resounding in your laugh, so glad and free.
Though now your tones in deep-locked silence lie,
Much of the old light glistens in your eye.
We wish to see it all return again,
With freedom from disease and gnawing pain;
We trust you to His care who doeth well
All things; and would by faith a mighty spell
Might give you back, this very hour,
Full health, and faculty of every power.

A baby face comes up before me now;
Sweet lips, blue eyes, a high and snowy brow;
A fair embodiment of childish grace,
Some look of likeness to which I can trace
In Charlie, next in turn, to manhood grown,
With thought, and look, and bearing all his own;
The prime of manhood scarcely yet attained,
Though much development of purpose gained;
Rich fields are opening to his daily view,
With stores of thought and feeling ever new,
And life seems golden with its promised hope
Of love and labor, widening in its scope.
May Heaven's richest blessings on him rest,
And calm enjoyment ever fill his breast.

The youngest son, and tallest, of the four
Comes next to view; I see him, as of yore
He tried to make machines and engines rare
Of spinning wheels, old clocks, legs of a chair;
Dammed up the brooks to make his mill-wheels go,
Sailed his small boats on water gathered so;
Loved studying to whittle something new,
A little better than the dryer view
Obtained from grammar and arithmetic;
Better than books, a jackknife and a stick;
I scarcely recognize the boy in Fred;
I almost see an artist in his stead.
The germs of thought that in this life begin,

Will, if we let them grow our minds within,
In time bud out, and bloom and fruitage bear,
Some good for use, some beautifully fair.
If life is ended ere the fruitage come,
Or ere the thought has even reached its bloom,
The immortal spirit on the other shore
Will just take up the work to end no more;
So may it be, my brother Fred, with you,
In all the possibilities you view
Within yourself, were circumstances right
To grant results they promise to your sight.

My sister Kate, to you what shall I say.
In later years my comrade by the way;
In childhood days my little chosen friend,
Whose every fault I labored to defend.
More than the rest your lot has been to cheer
Our parents' hearts, by being present here
When others had to leave them, one by one,
Until, save you, each of the nine were gone.
Many a day that would have seemed more long
And sad and lonely has been borne along
At quicker pace and happier estate
For them because you chose at home to wait.
And all, I know, have envied you your lot,
Sometimes to be at home when we could not.
We thank you for the love of home you bear,
And all the benefit of service there;
And may you only part with it for one
Which shall be more entirely your own.

The pet of all the household, Alice dear,
No longer little Alice, meets me here,
A woman grown, with energy and skill
To meet the world, in readiness of will
For business, with a courage high and strong;
Enjoyment of the shifting scenes among

Which she is thrown upon her varied way,
Gleaming some sunshine in the darkest day.
The common lot of every youngest child,
To which she must, ere this, be reconciled,
To be advised by every older one,
Without the power the sage advice to shun.
With eight besides her parents to advise,
How perfectly her future destinies
In all appointed ways should be marked out;
What wonder if she understand which route
Will be the best, and surest one to lead
To such results as meet her spirit's need.
She turns upon us such a smiling face,
And wins our hearts with such a sweetened grace,
That after we have each said out our say,
We all consent to let her have her way.
I think we all rely upon her strength,
Although unconsciously, believing that at length,
In some way, she is going to be a stay,
And prop, along life's down-hill way;
A sunbeam shining over later years,
Brightening our hopes and driving off our fears.

I said there were but nine, but now I see
Six more who claim our parents facing me.
Another brother Charles sits by the side
Of our Elizabeth, long time his bride.
An Adaline, who has helped Frank along,
The two together making each more strong.
A Harriett, whom Lewis found out West,
And only lately brought to join the rest.
An Isaac, Ellen's lover, husband, friend;
A Belle with Charlie's wedded life to blend;
A Juliet to cheer and comfort Fred;
These six to join our circle have been led.
To each of them we reach a greeting hand,
As children, brothers, sisters, here they stand.

Then there are others who our parents greet;
"Grandmother" and "grandfather" they repeat.
Each one, there are not many, I will name,
And lovingly present each separate claim
To all we give to them of love and care,
Though hard to tell which seems to us most fair.
First, children of Elizabeth we mention o'er;
There have been, yes, to-day there still are four.
Anna, the eldest, I remember you,
When as a baby, to my partial view,
No child on earth seemed ever half so bright,
Or with its cunning ways gave such delight;
Nellie, a young Elizabeth we see,
In all the grace which sits so well on thee.
Frankie, with rev'rent lips thy name we breathe,
And to thy memory loving tribute wreathe;
For thou art lost to sight, just gone before,
And waiting for us on the other shore.
Charlie, the last one of the quartette band,
Completed yet in heaven may it stand.
Frank's Horace, oldest heir there is to claim
The honorable, much respected name
Your father's ancestors have brought to you,
The name of Hart, may you as such be true
To all the lofty manhood it may bring;
We look to see, from you, much promise spring.
Alice, the Buckeye girl, child of the West,
It gives us joy at length among the rest
To see you take your place; grandchildren here
Are not so plenty as we wish they were.
Edith and Willie, Charlie's only two,
We cannot tell the love we bear to you;
Edith, the elder, leading by the hand
The timid boy, who scarce can understand
What men were made for, and who dearly loves
His parents, and his sister, and who proves
His fondness in a thousand baby ways,
So sweet that we who know him sing his praise.

Others there are, who with our youthful days
Are linked by memory in ten thousand ways.
There's Uncle Samuel, always living near,
Our father's youngest brother, he is here,
And him I greet with gratitude to-day
For all the cheer he's lent us by the way.
Aunt Lydia, too, and then I hasten on
To give a hand to Walter, Jane and John.
Our comrades they in every sort of fun,
But oftenest, when at the set of sun,
Dishes all washed, and chores finished up,
We made the valley ring with shout and whoop;
Played till the darkness coming on apace,
Parental calls would end the mad-cap race.
Together, oft, we at the fireside met,
And heard the tales we never shall forget,
Which grandfather delighted to relate,
Then laughed to see the eager wonder wait
In our wide-open eyes, as we took in
The wondrous narratives he loved to spin.
Together, O how often, have we trod,
With book, and slate, and dinner pail, the road
After you joined us at the Bartlett lot,
Over "great bridge" and up the hill "Back bone."
So oft we went, we knew its every stone,
And landed at the schoolhouse just beyond,
Where through the day our various tasks we conned;
At night, sometimes we took another route,
And by the old road, after school was out,
We loitering came, and full enjoyment drew
From what, because less frequent, seemed more new.
Together, till our varied walks apart
Began to widen, not much at the start,
But more and more, till now our busy feet
Along the old home track but seldom meet.
Our father's only sister has a claim
That I should take her hand and speak her name.
Aunt Mary, gentle woman, bearing trace

So much of grandmother, in form and face;
So many other aunts and cousins all,
We cannot separately each one call,
And so we say to all the rest, believe
That you our heartiest good-will receive.
Old friends and neighbors, all who gather here,
Receive our greetings that to you we bear.
May every married couple here to-day
Live on to celebrate in such a way
Their golden wedding; and may every one,
Married or single, find life's setting sun
Shine on a spirit ripened for the rest
That waits beyond in mansions of the blest.

The balance of the program was then carried out, as follows:

Toast: Durham and its landmarks, Paug and Totoket mountains, faithful sentinels of the Hart domain, the boundaries of our youthful visions, shutting out the great mysterious world; in winter dazzling in snowy mantles and glistening diamonds, in spring clothed in soft verdure, fragrant with bloom, joyous with music of forest birds, in summer a cool retreat under their overhanging shadows, in autumn gorgeous with color, alive with the sound of the whirring partridge, the chattering squirrel, and the bark of the hunter's dog.

Response: Song.

Written by Mrs. Elizabeth A. Hart Camp.

This is our home, our native home,
Though poor and rough the soil—
The home of many a noble Hart,
The land of care and toil;
Her rivers and her rocks we'll love,
Till death our quick blood stills;

For Cochinchaug, Hurrah! Hurrah!
With her woods and vales and rills.

Chorus: Hurrah for old Totoket,
With its green and lofty hills;
Hurrah for grand old rocky Paug,
With its green and lofty hills.

Shall not this old ancestral home,
For Puritan service given,
With pride step forth and take her place,
With the brightly golden leaven?
Then for these Harts, whose rising fame
Our farthest boundary fills,
We'll shout and sing for Cochinchaug,
With her woods and vales and rills.

One has sought the Western clime;
He says 'tis passing fair,
That sunny are its deep blue skies,
And soft its balmy air;
We'll linger round our childhood home,
Till, aye, our warm blood chills,
Then we'll rest in old New England,
And sleep beneath her hills.

Toast: The Golden Chain, 1828-1878.

Response, by Rev. A. C. Dennison: The past, the present and the future. The past bound to the present by a golden chain; its links forged with honesty and integrity. May it reach forward to the future in a constant looking to the recompense of reward to be received when it shall be snapped asunder here, to be welded again within the gates of the Golden City.

After appropriate remarks prompted by the events, and association and surroundings of

the hour, the speaker closed in these poetic words:

The tireless steeds of Father Time
Their fiftieth round have run
Since he has seen this chain entwined,
Two loving (hearts) Harts in one;
Joined by no fragile, irksome bond,
But by the chain of love;
A chain so bright and strong that nought
But death can e'er remove.

The damp of all these fifty years
Has rusted not this chain;
The shocks that so much else have rent,
Have rent it not in twain;
Brighter and brighter year by year
Its golden lustre shines;
Closer and closer round these hearts
Its welcome coils it twines.

What strange mutations have there been,
In customs, church and state,
Between that former wedding scene
And this of seventy-eight.
The bride and bridegroom, then fair-haired,
Now wear a crown of gray,
And but a few that wedding shared
Can share in this to-day.

And while with heartfelt joy we greet
These earthly friends we love,
We'll not forget dear Frank, who's gone
To join the throng above.
'Twill not be long before our names
Are numbered with the dead.
Who of us here will walk the earth
When fifty years have sped?

Toast: The New Connecticut, the adopted home of members of the family.

Response, by William Lewis Hart, resident of Brighton, Ohio.

Toast: The Old Homestead. Located near the ancestral home of the Harts, humble in appearance, rural in location, cherished for its childhood memories, its green fields, beautiful mountain slopes; a fountain of health with its pure water and bracing mountain air; framed by the cedar and hemlock—may it to-day and in the future be to us an asylum, where we can flee from the care of life, and gather new strength from its pure air, feast on its beautiful scenery, and enjoy its quiet and rest.

Response: Song, The Old House at Home.

Come, sire and children, all unite
  In words of Hart-y cheer;
While friends and neighbors we invite,
  To sing of this golden year;
O chain of love! O links of gold!
  That have the years defied,
And still in happy bondage hold
  The old man and his bride.

Once golden locks are silvery white,
  Their steps have feebler grown,
Though fifty years have dimmed the sight,
  The heart has held its own;
O chain of love! O links of gold!
  That time could not divide,
Has kept through changes manifold
  The old man and his bride.

That sweet June day with roses bright,
  In eighteen twenty-eight,
Still sheds o'er us its golden light

In eighteen seventy-eight;
O fifty years! O links of gold!
O marriage true and tried,
That binds with tenderness untold
The old man and his bride.

Four sturdy sons, the father's pride,
Harts worthy of the name;
Five daughters, too, who near reside,
Nine links of the golden chain;
Grandchildren fair, "We are but seven;"
One on the other side,
Waits at the golden gate of Heaven
For the old man and his bride.

We give you joy, dear, loving friends,
The heartiest we can say;
For when this weary journey ends
There still is a golden day;
O land of rest! O streets of gold!
O love beatified—
Joined in a brighter home, behold
The old man and his bride.

Toast: The Samuels. Numerous, venerable, honorable, may the name never die out, but the last representatives embody the honors and virtues of their ancestors.

Response: Song, Uncle Sam's Farm.

Toast: Our Ancestors. Being among the earliest settlers of New England, foremost among the colonists in planting towns and establishing churches and schools, patriotic in the defense of their country, numerous in the armies of 1777 and 1862, influential in the councils of state, honored in the humbler walks of life, may we ever cherish their memories and with an earnest zeal practice their virtues.

Response, by Franklin H. Hart, song, Landing of the Pilgrims.

Toast: The Marys of the Harts. The first Mary of the American soil, born about 1640, numbered in eight generations, making sixty-two in all, fifteen of these being mothers of one hundred and five children, represented here to-day by the sixth and seventh generations; may the former ever live in our memories as the noble gem of the old Puritan stock, and may the latter live to emulate the example of the noble first.

Response, Mrs. Mary Barnes, the only sister of Mr. Hart and the honored representative of the sixth generation of Mary Harts.

My Friends:

I thank you for the thought that I may ever live in your memory as the representative of the sixth generation of the name of Mary. May the germ of the sixth be greatly improved in the superior talents and culture of the Mary of the seventh generation, and become noble in the Mary of the eighth.

Toast: Our Childhood Days. Happy, happy, early life, whose first recollections embrace the old wooden cradle, a smooth rocker to Elizabeth but a jolter to Alice; the standing stool where spunky May and sly Charles were made captives; the hard-times apron in which mischievous Lewis crept; the dark closet where Kate and Fred pouted and repented; the long evenings doing out sums; sliding down-hill moonlight nights; corn-huskings; parties where the rosy cheeked girls grew more rosy all the evening; the old South Church where from nine to eleven of us arrived one hour late; the horse sheds where the boys sometimes played Sunday noons: your bright days are over, but memory clings to those days long past as the happiest portion of life.

Response, song, The Old Oaken Bucket.

Toast: The Soldiers of the Harts. May the rising generations be as loyal, brave and ready to defend their country as their ancestors have been.

Response, by Frederick J. Hart.

Toast, The Hart Nine.

Response, by Charles E. Hart.

The evening closed with the "Golden Wedding Poem," by Mrs. Elizabeth A. Camp.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

As friends and children, we have come
From other scenes away
To keep in this dear, happy home,
This golden wedding day.
O favored home, O welcome day!
To hope and memory dear,
What golden halos crown the scene
We see before us here!

For half a hundred gliding years
Old Coginchaug has run,
Since two bright streams of youthful life,
Here blended into one—
One peaceful, pure, refreshing stream,
Like Silva's brook that flowed,
To bless and cheer in hope and fear
Fast by the courts of God.

And still for many a golden year
May that stream gently flow,
Branches and branchlets running near
And golden sands below!
Long may it here still bless and cheer,

Until at length it meets
And mingles with the stream of life
That laves the golden streets!

Still, Father, guide this groom and bride,
Through all the way they go;
And may their peaceful eventide
A golden sunset show.
And as their sun at length goes down,
When life's long day is o'er,
May it then rise in brighter skies,
To sink and set no more.

Thus closed the most enjoyable social event of the home life, and the last general gathering of the whole Hart family. On August 9, 1878, the Wallingford tornado visited the home, uprooting all the fruit trees, and doing considerable damage to the buildings. A number of the family were visiting there at the time, but all providentially escaped injury. At one time the fury of the tornado was so great that the destruction of the house and other buildings seemed inevitable, but it proved a tower of strength and withstood its power.

Early in March, 1879, Mr. Hart was stricken with pneumonia, and after struggling eight days with the dread disease he died on Monday night, March 10th, at ten o'clock, aged seventy-two years, ten months, fourteen days. Peaceful in his last hours, his passing away was like falling quietly into a deep, refreshing sleep. The funeral was held Thursday, March

13, 1879, at the old home and the South Congregational Church, from whence he was laid at rest in the churchyard by his four sons and two sons-in-law; his was the first open grave in the family burial lot. The funeral was attended by Rev. C. E. Baldwin, who thus wrote an absent member of the family of the funeral and of the life of the departed:

"It was my mournful privilege to minister at the funeral of your father.

"After reading a few scripture selections, making brief remarks and offering prayer at the house, a hymn was sung.

"I could but give brief expression to my feelings of sorrow at the great change his death makes in your home. How many tender memories are recalled! How sweet life has been in that dear spot! How delightful to go back again from wherever you might have been! How you will miss him! How sad to think he must be carried out never to return. Yet how many things to be grateful for! How long he has been spared! How peaceful he was in his death! How much he has done to make the memories of him always pleasant!

"The meeting house was filled full of people who came to testify their appreciation of his worth. I took as the basis of some remarks: 'And devout men carried Stephen to

his burial and made great lamentations over him;' Acts viii, 2.

" 'The children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; we mourn the loss of good men, their presence, their counsels, their prayers, their material aid. To-day we feel that a trained warrior has fallen from the ranks. A faithful witness has been taken from his post. A light of the earth is quenched. The voice we often heard in prayer is silent now. The hand that opened in charity lies mouldering in the dust. A pillar of this earthly temple has been wrenched from its place. None of us liveth to himself and none dieth to himself alone. Well may we mourn, therefore, when an active and influential Christian dies.

" 'It is a loss to the church. It is a loss to society. It is a loss to the world. We feel that he cannot be spared. Such a loss we feel has fallen upon us now.

" 'Early in life he and his wife united with the church which worshiped near this site. Active in its works, he was chosen deacon of this church November 26, 1853. As such he has truly made a good report. His death is felt as an irreparable loss by the church. He has been all his life an active and useful man in all good causes. He tried to do his whole duty as a Christian citizen. He had

a most successful life in all that makes true success. He was happy in his family, being tenderly loved by them all. He lived to see them all in the church. He was happy in the love and confidence of his fellow-citizens. He was happy in the love of the church. He was not rich in this world's goods, but all feel that he was rich toward God.

" 'We can but pray that his mantle may fall upon some one else, he being dead, yet speaketh. He has left a heritage of great value—a goodly life and a good name.

" 'This useful, active, good man died like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams.'

* * * * "By his life alone,
Gracious and sweet, the better way was shown."

The children born to William Augustus Hart and his wife, Sally Maria, were: Elizabeth Amelia, born in the ancestral home of the Harts, May 17, 1831, and in the house Mr. Hart built were born the other eight, as follows: Franklin Henry, April 29, 1834; Mary Eliza, July 10, 1836; William Lewis, December 28, 1838; Ellen Maria, March 11, 1841; Charles Edgar, April 2, 1843; Frederick Jones, February 26, 1845; Catherine Saloam, August 19, 1847; Alice Louise, April 19, 1852. (1) Elizabeth A. married Charles E. Camp, of

Middlefield, Conn. (3) Mary E. is deceased. (4) William Lewis is a resident of Brighton, Ohio. He served as a private in the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery during the Civil war. (5) Ellen M. married Isaac Hall, of Wallingford, and both are deceased. (6) Charles E. enlisted August 2, 1862, in Company I, Fifteenth Connecticut Volunteers, and took part in the first battle of Fredericksburg and the siege of Suffolk, Va. He was promoted July 31, 1864, to first lieutenant, and assigned to Company E, One Hundred Ninth United States Colored Troops; saw active service in the mountain region of eastern Kentucky and in the Army of the James, in Virginia, under Gen. B. F. Butler; organized in the Twenty-fifth Army Corps; took part in the battle of Petersburg and the final surrender of Gen. Lee and his army at Appomattox; promoted to captain on the field of Petersburg; did duty in Texas for nine months after the close of the war, and was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., February 24, 1866. (7) Frederick J. is now a resident of Joplin, Mo. He enlisted when seventeen years of age, March 19, 1862, in the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, re-enlisted March 22, 1864, at Arlington, Va., and was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., March 26, 1866. He was promoted to second lieutenant, One Hundred Ninth United States Colored

Troops, on the field at Bermuda Hundred. During his service he participated in the siege of Yorktown, battles of Hanover Court House, Seven Pines, Gaines Mills, Chickahominy, Malvern Hill, siege of Petersburg, and engagements at Hatches Run and Appomattox. (8) Catherine S. lives in Durham, Conn. (9) Alice L. is an artist, in Boston, Massachusetts.

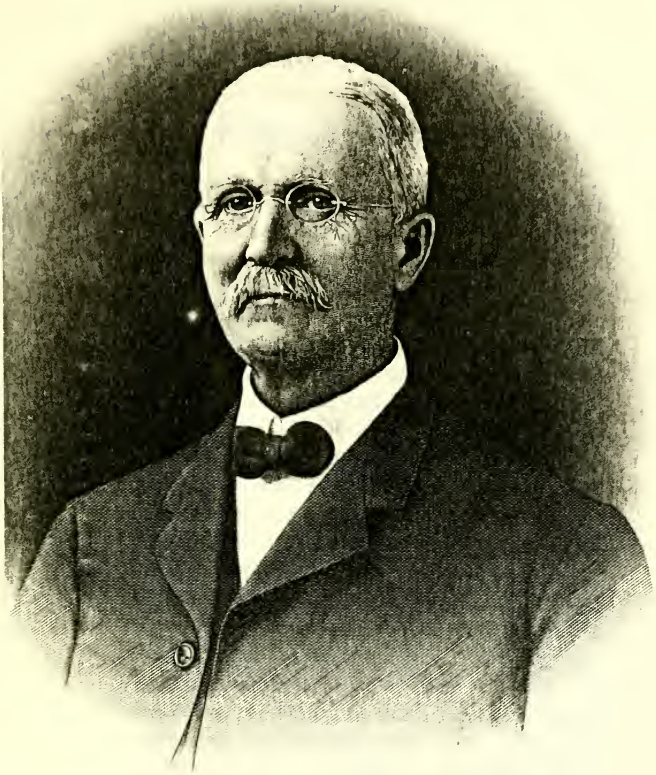
As an appropriate closing of this sketch, we quote Mr. Hart's own words, from his manuscript written in March, 1832, entitled "The Poor Man's Hymn":

As much have I of worldly good
  As e'er my Master had;
I diet on as dainty food,
  And am as richly clad.
Though plain my garb, though scant my board,
As Mary's son and nature's Lord.

The manger was his infant's bed,
  His home the mountain cave;
He had not where to lay his head,
  He borrowed e'en his grave.
Earth yielded Him no resting spot,
Her Master, but she knew Him not.

As much the world's good-will I bear,
  Its favors and applause,
As He whose blessed name I bear—
  Hated without a cause,
Despised, rejected, mocked by pride,
Betrayed, forsaken, crucified.

Why should I court my Master's foe,
  Why should I fear its frown?
Why should I seek for rest below,
  Or sigh for brief renown?
A pilgrim to a better land,
An heir of joys at God's right hand.



Franklin K. Hart

FRANKLIN HENRY HART

FRANKLIN HENRY HART was born in the town of Durham, on the farm which has been in the family since the time of Rev. Joseph Eliot, granted by special act of the General Court of Connecticut, in 1698, to Mary Eliot, his great-great-grandmother. His literary training was received in the public schools of Durham, and his first business venture, at the age of fourteen years, was the peddling of charcoal. At sixteen he attended the first organization of the State Normal School, in New Britain, where he was a student for two terms, in 1849-50. He had fitted himself for teaching, but before he could obtain a school had to pass an examination, which was conducted by nine residents of the town, including the minister. One very important qualification of a teacher in that district was the ability to make pens from quills furnished by the examiners. The use of steel pens was strictly prohibited, the pupils bringing the quills, and the teacher with his pocket-

knife converting them into pens. In 1851 Mr. Hart taught a district school in Middlefield, continuing to teach for two winters in the South End District in Durham. In 1854 he became associated with H. H. Strong in business in New Haven, where he remained until March, 1856. About this time the trouble in Kansas regarding slavery was attracting attention from all over the United States. The Abolition element in Connecticut was active, and in order to stimulate that side of the controversy a colony was formed at New Haven for migration to Kansas. The meeting to organize this colony was held in the North Church, New Haven, March 20, 1856. Henry Ward Beecher made a stirring address, and after he had concluded it was announced that while the party was well fitted to dig and plow, it was not in shape to fight. Prof. Silliman of Yale arose, and in a short speech urged the furnishing of the colonists with guns, so that they could do something for freedom, as well as for the building up of prosperity on the plains. He ended by subscribing $25 for the purchase of a Sharps rifle. Others followed his example, and in a short time half of the colonists had been provided with weapons for either offense or defense. Mr. Beecher, then at the zenith of his power, again took the rostrum, and in a magnetic speech gave his

blessing to the new plan, and promised that if the colonists could get half enough rifles there he would promise that his church would furnish the remainder. In a few days he sent the company the required number of guns, over $600 having been subscribed by his parishioners for the purpose, and along with the guns came a Bible and hymn book for every member of the party. In the party were doctors, lawyers, mechanics, teachers, and preachers, and on March 29, 1856, they marched out of New Haven, as splendid a party of men as ever gathered for the colonization of the West. With them went the words of Mr. Beecher as he wrote them from his study in Brooklyn, as he sent the rifles:

> Let these arms hang above your doors as the old Revolutionary muskets do in many a New England dwelling. May your children in another generation look upon them with pride and say, "Our fathers' courage saved this land from blood and slavery." Every morning's breeze shall catch the blessing of our prayers and roll them westward to your prairie homes. May your sons be as large hearted as the heavens above their heads. May your daughters fill the land as the flowers do the prairies, only sweeter, fairer than they. You will not need to use arms when it is known that you have them. It is the essence of slavery to be arrogant before the weak and cowardly before the strong.

One of these historic Sharps rifles, which did service against armed invasion of the slave

power, is treasured by Mr. Hart as a factor in making Kansas a free State, and the first gun fired in the preliminary skirmish of the Civil war.

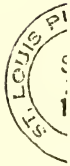
Mr. Hart was a member of the colony which was under Charles B. Lines, and settled at Wabaunsee, Kans. Mr. Hart remained in Kansas until the fall of 1859, excepting during a period of about seven months, in the winter of 1858-59, when he taught school at Camp Point, Ill. He returned to Connecticut in the fall of 1859, and again associated himself in business with Mr. Strong, and since that time has been one of the reliable business men of New Haven, one whose integrity is unquestioned, and whose success has been merited. In 1872 he became associated in the wholesale provision business, under the firm name of Strong, Barnes, Hart & Co.

On December 24, 1860, at Durham, Mr. Hart was united in marriage with Adaline Jackson, a daughter of John Jackson, and they have had one son, Horace Sedgwick, who was born August 30, 1864, and is a brilliant young man. He graduated from Yale in 1887, studied medicine in the College of Physicians & Surgeons, New York, graduating in 1893, spent two years in Bellevue Hospital, and began practice in 1896, in Cambridge, N. Y. At Tarrytown, N. Y., he married Amy Richards, and

they have two children, Gertrude Richards and Franklin Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Hart are members of the Church of the Redeemer. He was for a number of years a member of the society's committee and its chairman.

Franklin H. Hart is a member of Wooster Lodge, F. & A. M.; of the Sons of the American Revolution; and of the Union League. He was one of the organizers of the Republican League, which was organized on the defeat of James G. Blaine, with three hundred members. His connection with civic affairs has been notable in town and city. In 1879 and 1880 he was a member of the board of selectmen, and it was during this period that Fair Haven was annexed to New Haven, and the town line extended, taking in the entire east shore of New Haven Harbor to and including Southend. From 1881 to 1891 he was a member of the board of police commissioners during which period was introduced the Gamewell Police Telephone and Signal System; also the patrol wagon and ambulance. It was in 1889 that the Veteran Reserve Grade pension act and Reserve fund in police department were established. In the inauguration of all these plans and devices Mr. Hart took a prominent part. While a member of this board he was presented with a valuable watch,

as a testimonial of the regard in which he was held by the citizens of New Haven.

Mr. Hart is one of the well known citizens of his city, and has made life a success. While well along toward threescore and ten, he is active in mind and body—a man of regular habits, as his well-preserved physical condition will attest. He is an enthusiastic and successful amateur photographer, and during his travels has collected a vast number of interesting views with his camera, his collection of Cuban, Jamaican and Mexican views being especially interesting, and, to no small extent, instructive, as they embrace many photographs which a student of sociology would consider rare and extremely valuable. While he has been actively identified with the interests of the city of his adoption, his birthplace has not been neglected or forgotten. The old homestead is still maintained, and, although unoccupied by any of the Hart family, its associations are dear to them all, and frequent visits are made to this loved spot. Interest is also taken in the affairs of Durham, especially in preserving and beautifying its cemeteries, Mr. Hart being a trustee of the Durham Cemetery Association. He was also active in the building of the Durham Memorial Public Library, dedicated and presented to the town August 14, 1902. His contributions to this object were in re-

membrance of his father, William Augustus Hart, who represented the advanced thought and activity of his time in promoting the education of the young, and of his sister, Mary E. Hart, a successful teacher in early life, later eminent as an artist, notable for her violet productions. The dearest spot on earth to-day is the "old Mountain Home" of the Hart family.